

azine

asian/american queer,
women-centered arts &
zine collective

SPRING 2023:
WE PUBLISH
OUR FIRST
ISSUE!



LETTER THE ED

dear reader,

thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and love into this zine. our stories are beautiful and the spirit that has been displayed moves the heart deeply.

out of the four questions we asked at the start of this spring, one stuck with us the most. "What brought you here?" has been informative in exploring the intricacies of the asian/american narrative. it speaks of pathways, choices, and other lifetimes that could have been or have not yet come to pass. my hope is that the roots of this zine aren't forgotten and that asian/american stories on campus continue to circulate and live on in student memory. through the journey of creating this collective, I learned more of the legacy we carry of other politically and creatively active asian/american students – in fact, it was the asian/american students at barnard who drove the movement for the establishment of the Center of Ethnicity and Race (CSER) at this university. remembering is crucial in order to counteract attempts to divide our solidarity with others and empower ourselves. there must be a way to continue passing down knowledge that has been so hard won.

FROM EDITORS



azine itself began in search of an alternative third space on campus, for genuine community and commitment to listening/understanding/witnessing. azine also began out of frustration, of not being able to register for the CSER courses and not finding spaces that actually foster critical discussions and thought about our identities. we are in a ripe moment where it is possible to mobilize the asian/american movement again and we are determined to understand our own motives and what binds us all together.

to declare the need for a creative and reflective space which recognizes the intersections of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc. and take action to do so has been a test of resilience and persistence. we spent an entire semester (and more) fleshing out our philosophy and carving out precious time to make a foundation like this. please take care of us and each other. we approach azine in a way where we are not seeking to define, but to continuously question.

with love,
duan + azine (nami, sreoshi, cat, frankie)

A BRIEF TIMELINE OF OUR WORKSHOPS THROUGH THE SEMESTER:



MARCH 3 // CYANOTYPING

WE CHOSE IMAGES
THAT BROUGHT US
JOY, AND LEARNED
HOW TO DEVELOP
THEM BY CYANOTYPE!

JANUARY 27 //
OUR FIRST MEETING!
WE BROKE THE ICE
WITH BLIND CONTOUR
PORTRAITS, AND SPENT
SOME TIME WITH FOUR
GROUNDING QUESTIONS.

MARCH 24 // ETHNIC STUDIES TEACH - IN

A LESSON IN COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING, LED BY
GENA ZUROSKI, LIZ
KAUFMAN, & SUNG E.
BAI - STUDENT ORGAN-
IZERS FROM THE
ORIGINAL HUNGER STRIKE
THAT CREATED CSER.

FEBRUARY 10 //

IDENTITY: WHAT IS
ASIAN-NESS?

WE MIND-MAPPED OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURES. THEN WE CREATED A COLLECTIVE TIMELINE TO SEE HOW OUR LIVES HAVE INTERSECTED & DIVERGED OVER TIME.

2000

APRIL 7 //

WEAVING INTER-
SECTIONALITY

WEAVING OURSELVES INTO A COLLECTIVE TAPESTRY, WHILE LEARNING ABOUT THE STORIES OF PROTEST & RESISTANCE IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY – CLOSE TO HOME, FOR MANY OF US.

FEBRUARY 24 //

THE BODY AS AN INSTRUMENT

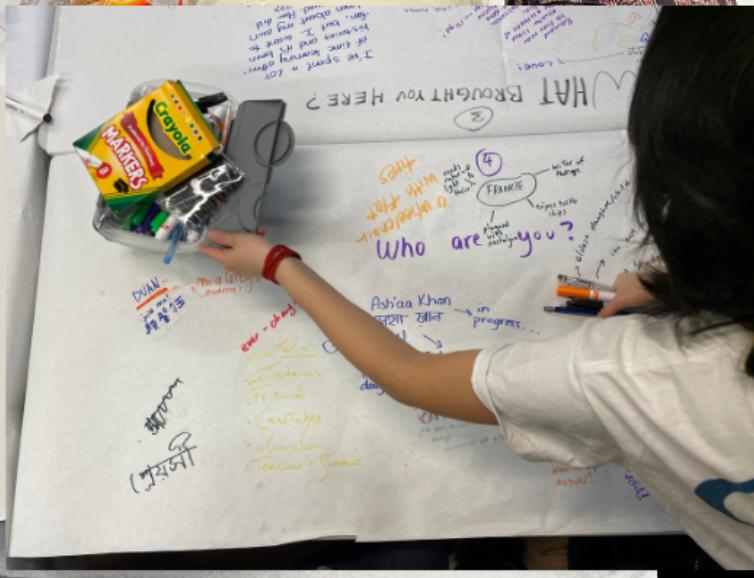
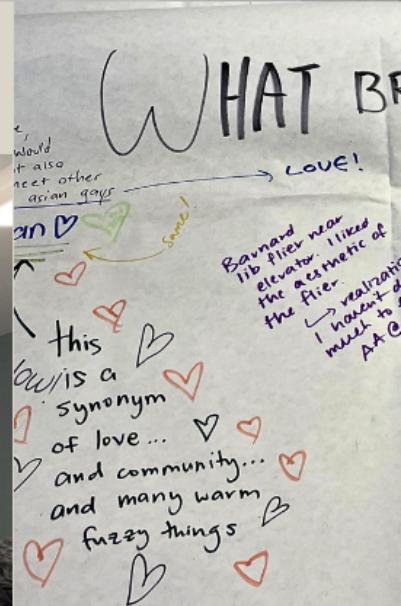
EXPLORING PERCUSSIVE MOVEMENT THROUGH KATHAK. WORKING WITH THE CYCLIC RHYTHMIC STRUCTURE OF TAAL TO TELL STORIES WITH OUR FEET (AND THE REST OF OUR BODIES).

APRIL 15 //

PICNIC

WE FOLLOWED THE SUN OUTSIDE TO EAT, CHAT, DOODLE, DEVELOP CYANOTYPES, AND PLAN THIS ZINE!

FIRST MEETING



① what do you know about your personal history?

I've forgotten
most of the
moments I
sweat to
remember

(Thiruvananthapuram)
My parents are from
Kerala & Tamil Nadu
but I grew up moving
between the two states.
I've studied different
cities in India sometimes
my cultural identity feels
fragmented. Learning feels
about my family's history & more
feel connected to home in trying
to understand but
I'm Taiwanese!

came from
long line
strong women

1. Taiwan
Asian but
my parents
from the same
place in China

Child of Chinese
immigrants. I inherited
many family
traits I don't
like to the
extreme

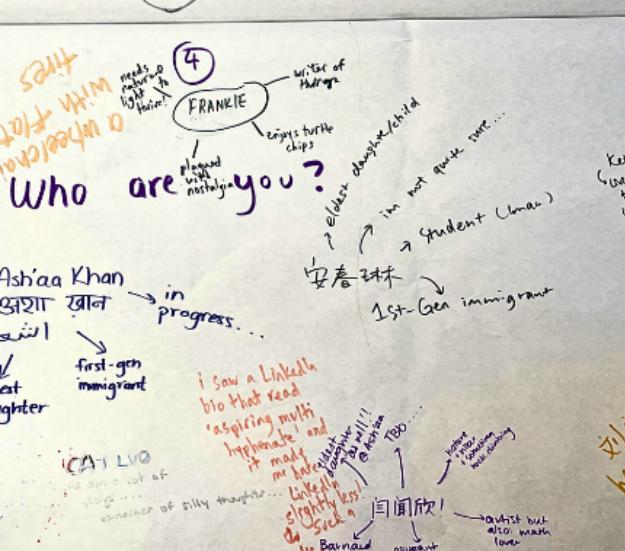
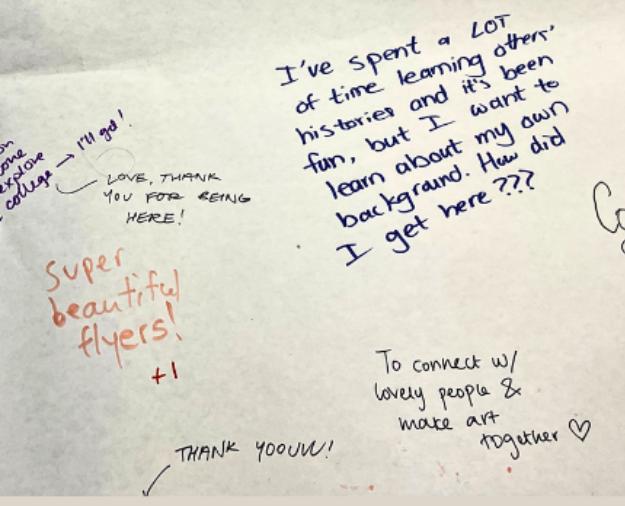
Too
My parents work
talk much abt
Teen, in India grow up
spending the U.S.
early childhood
my family & friends

little snippets
Stories my parents
chop @ the dinner
table + the random
trashbaths to
childhood

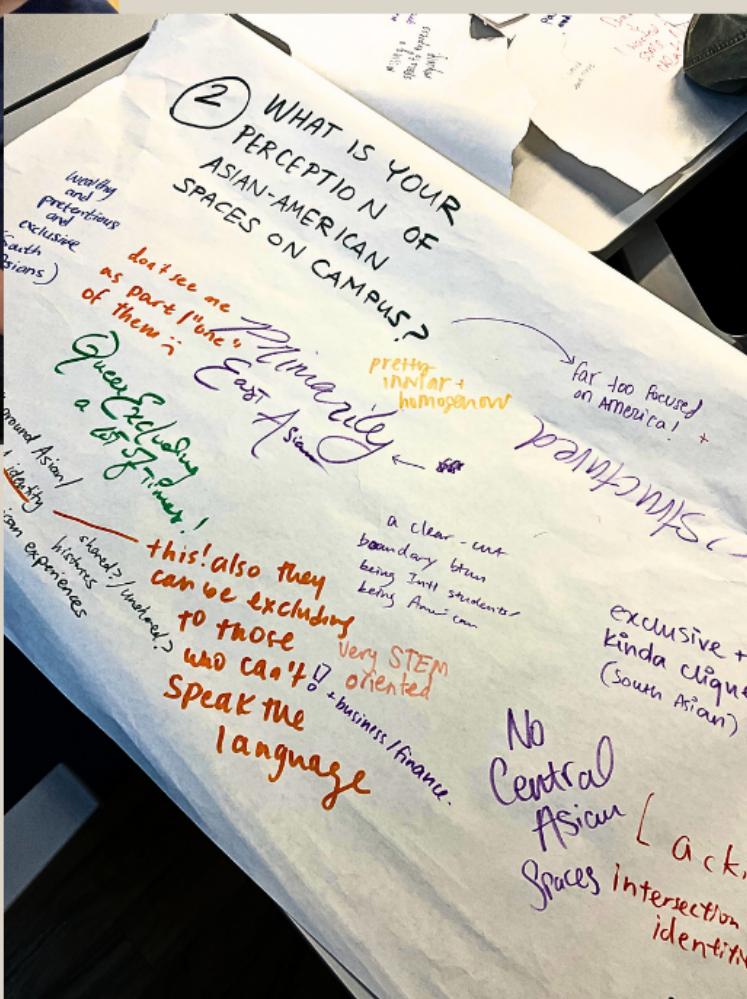
MY PARENTS ARE FROM
BENGAL + TAMIL NADU //
I'M LEARNING MORE ABOUT
MY FAMILY HISTORY AS MY
GRANDPARENTS AGE + P

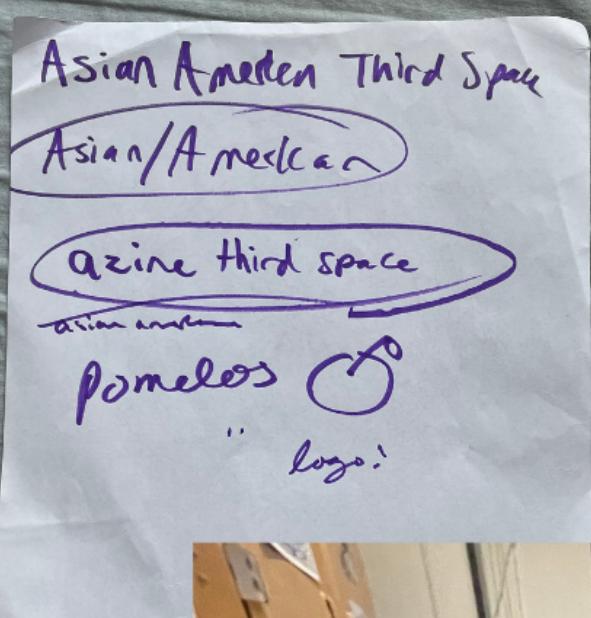
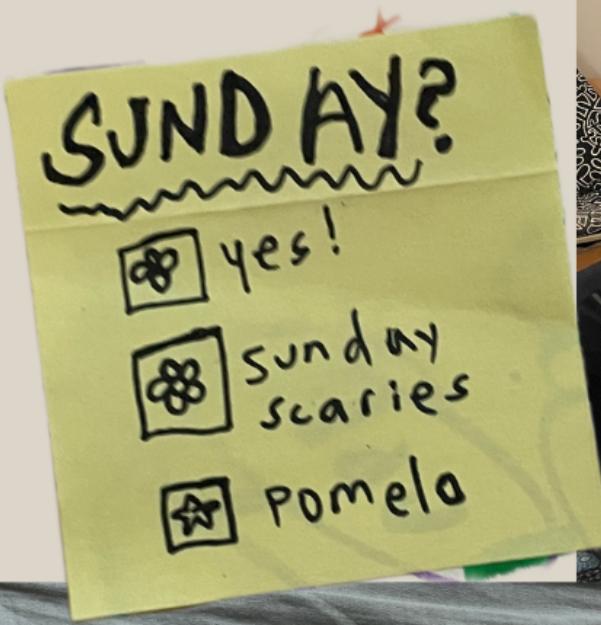
-chart M
Tele Uly -
Listener
and
writer
than
richer & broader

3 BROUGHT YOU HERE?

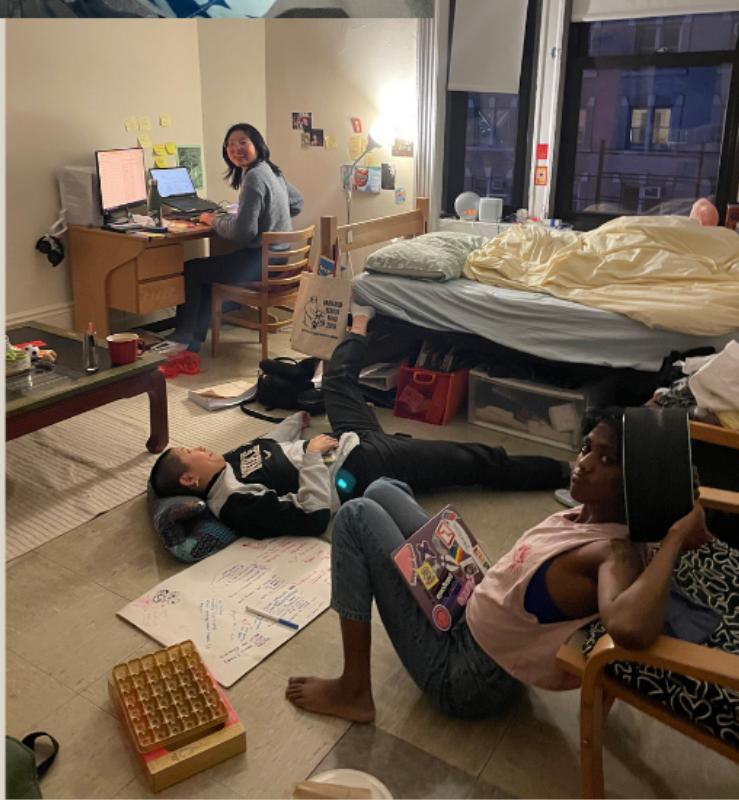


OUR GUIDING QUESTIONS!





PLANNING AND SCHEMING



ETHNIC STUDIES AT COLUMBIA: A Living History

Original archival research compiled by Audrey Oh (CC '21)
To visit Oh's site, search "CSER: A Protest, Ongoing"

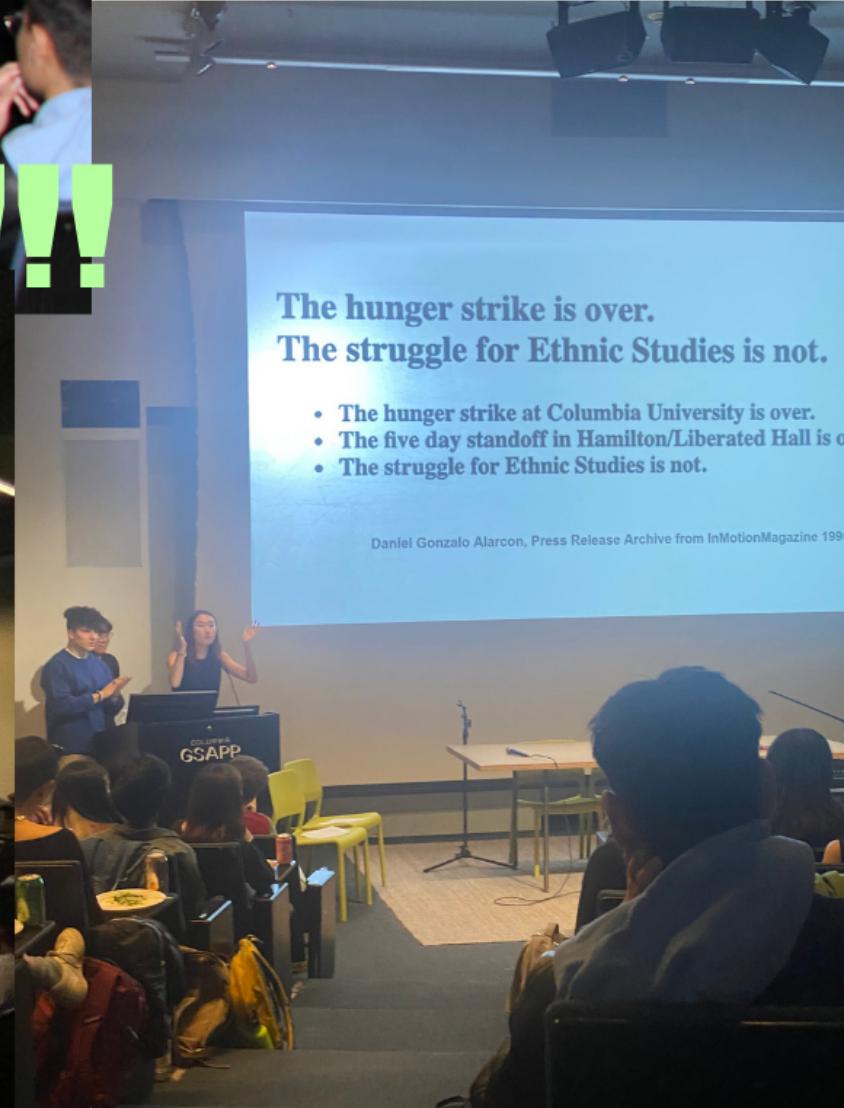


TEAC





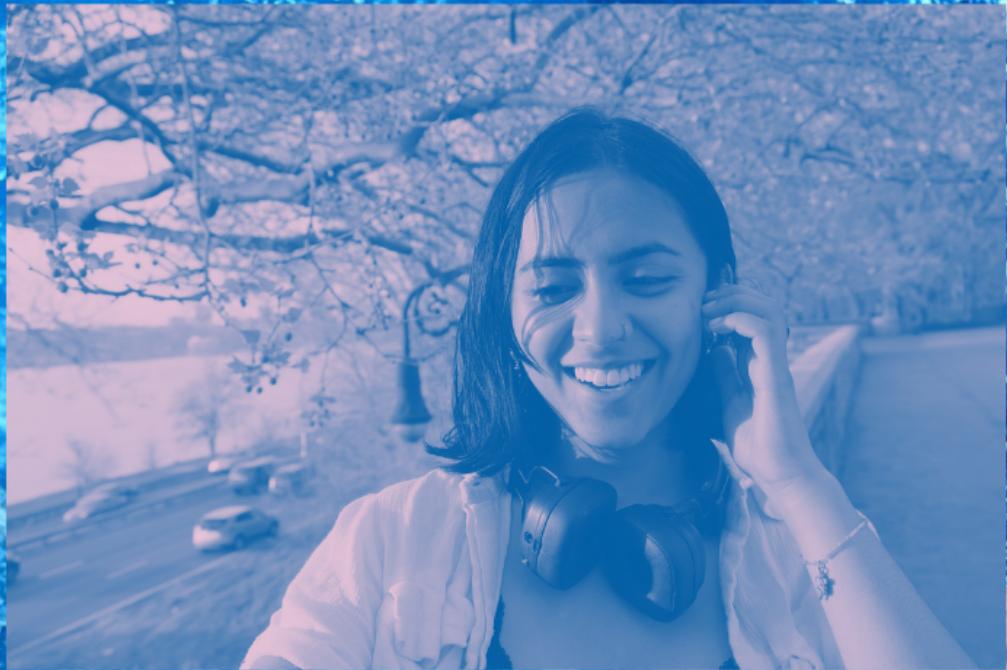
H-IN!!!



**The hunger strike is over.
The struggle for Ethnic Studies is not.**

- The hunger strike at Columbia University is over.
- The five day standoff in Hamilton/Liberated Hall is over.
- The struggle for Ethnic Studies is not.

Daniel Gonzalo Alarcon, Press Release Archive from InMotionMagazine 1998



Ash'aa Khan
اشیاء خان
अशा खान





cat's past

many types
of home ...



Waipo + I (2015)

- thought about lost history. racial melancholia ..
- didn't know how to grieve ...
she was diagnosed with alzheimer's
in 2014.

how am
I going
to learn
how to
be Chinese
now ...

The fact is,
I was never
interested in
family history ...
and that
is ok

I miss her

cat's present



Joyful, Joyful AZINE
(2023)

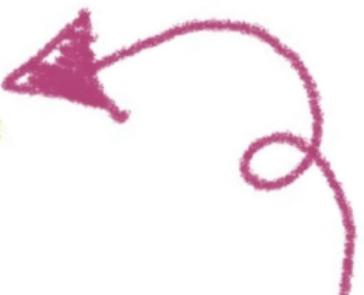
There are many
ways to live
and cry and find
connection...

foods i've shared w/

fruit gummies
w/ safira



she doesn't like
the orange ones
she picks them
out and hands
them to me



peanut butter jelly
sandwich w/ alice
on whole wheat bread
w/ grape jelly,
we each eat a half and
share it w/ squirrels at
the park

broccoli pizza w/ kaiden
i eat the broccoli,
he eats the pizza



berries w/ maya
cut up strawberries,
some blueberries
raspberries white
watching 'pj mu
on her ipad



b-day cake
rosie & willy

they had
of the pi
i had on
green

the kids i babysit



plate of chicken
+ buttered rice
and watermelon
w/ rohan

one hand plays w/
the food, the other
plays w/ a train



homemade
spaghetti & meatballs
w/ arha, she ate
until she fell asleep
on my lap



a slice
pink while
of me

Allergy Season '23

I've never had allergies before moving to New York. . .



Now my days are full - full of itches, blisters, and tears.



WHAT DO I DO?



eye
drops



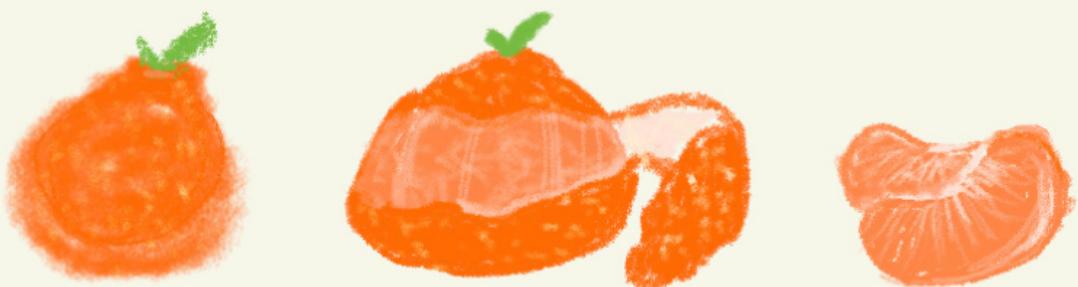
allergy
pills



ice
and
cold compresses

NOTHING WORKED

the best medicine turned out
to be distraction — my

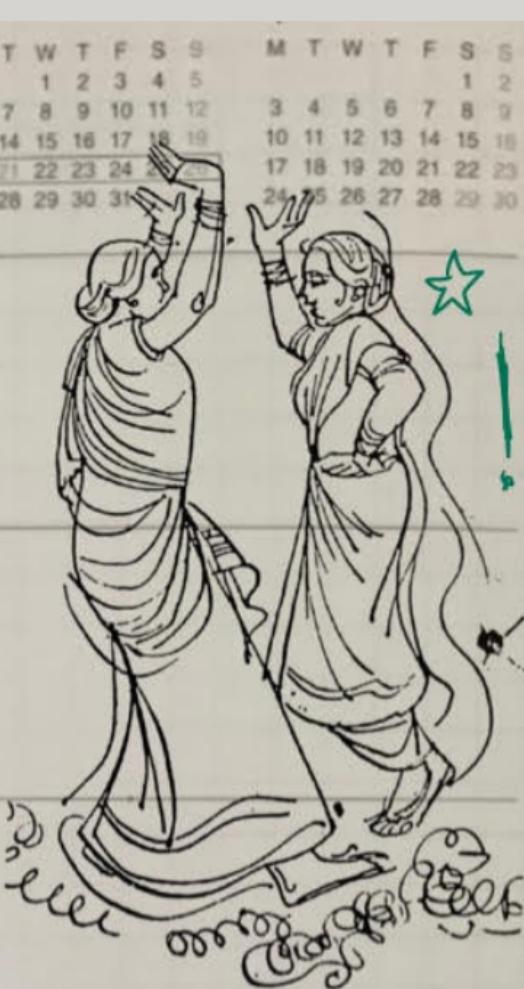


hands too busy peeling oranges
and making
pretty, pretty
pins with
lovely, lovely
friends



and discomforts and tears and
itchy eyes are forgotten for
another day. ~

— Jamie Lin
Spring '23



Connecting with my ancestral lineage through my body,  spirituality,  and nature. 

Learning how to speak

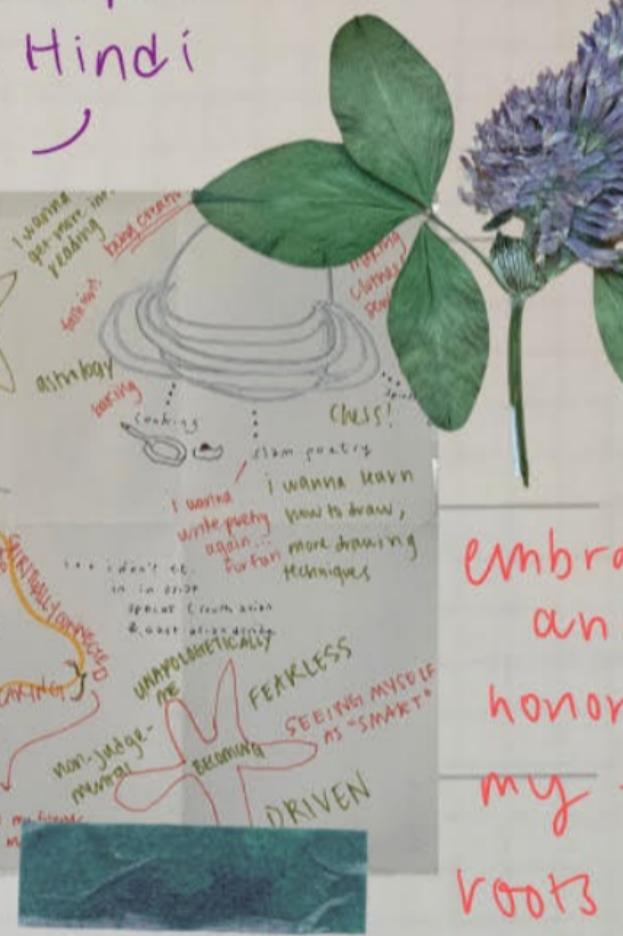
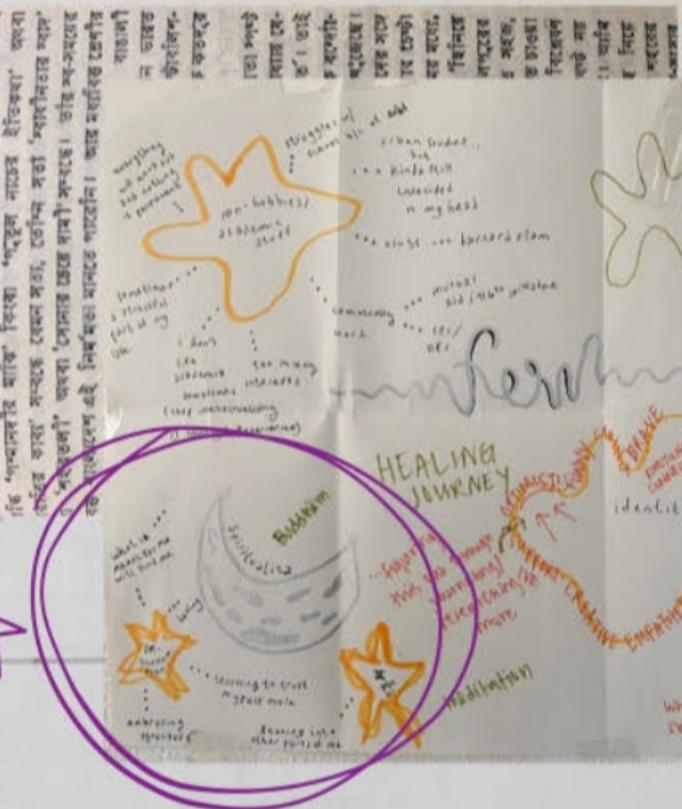
Thai + malayalam + Hindi

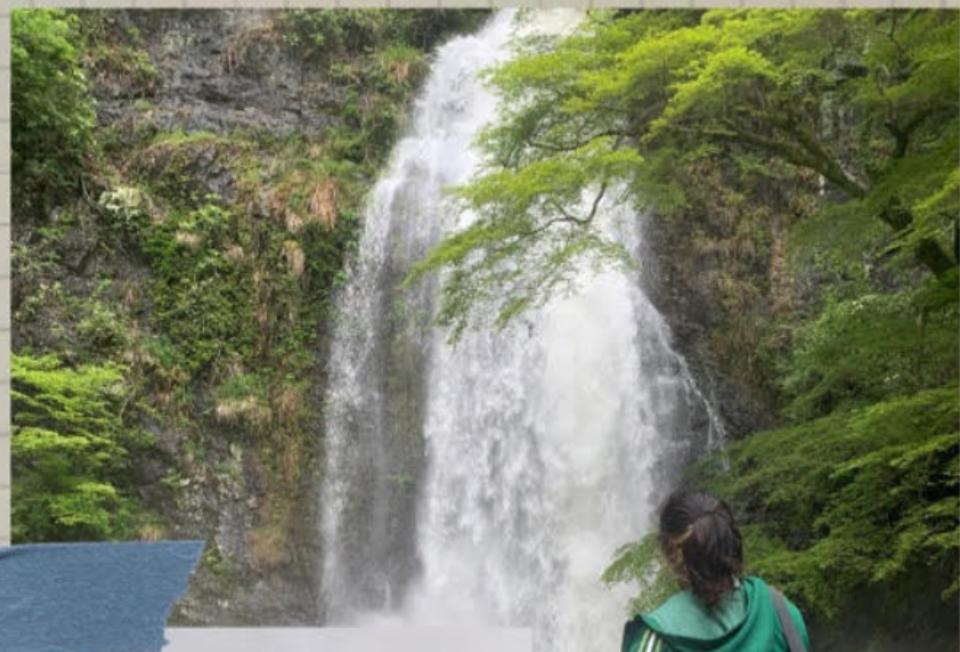
23
THU

24
FRI

25
SAT

26
SUN





Thai and Indian
by using both of
names

fern fern fern
fern fern fern
fern fern fern

BREAKING SILENCE

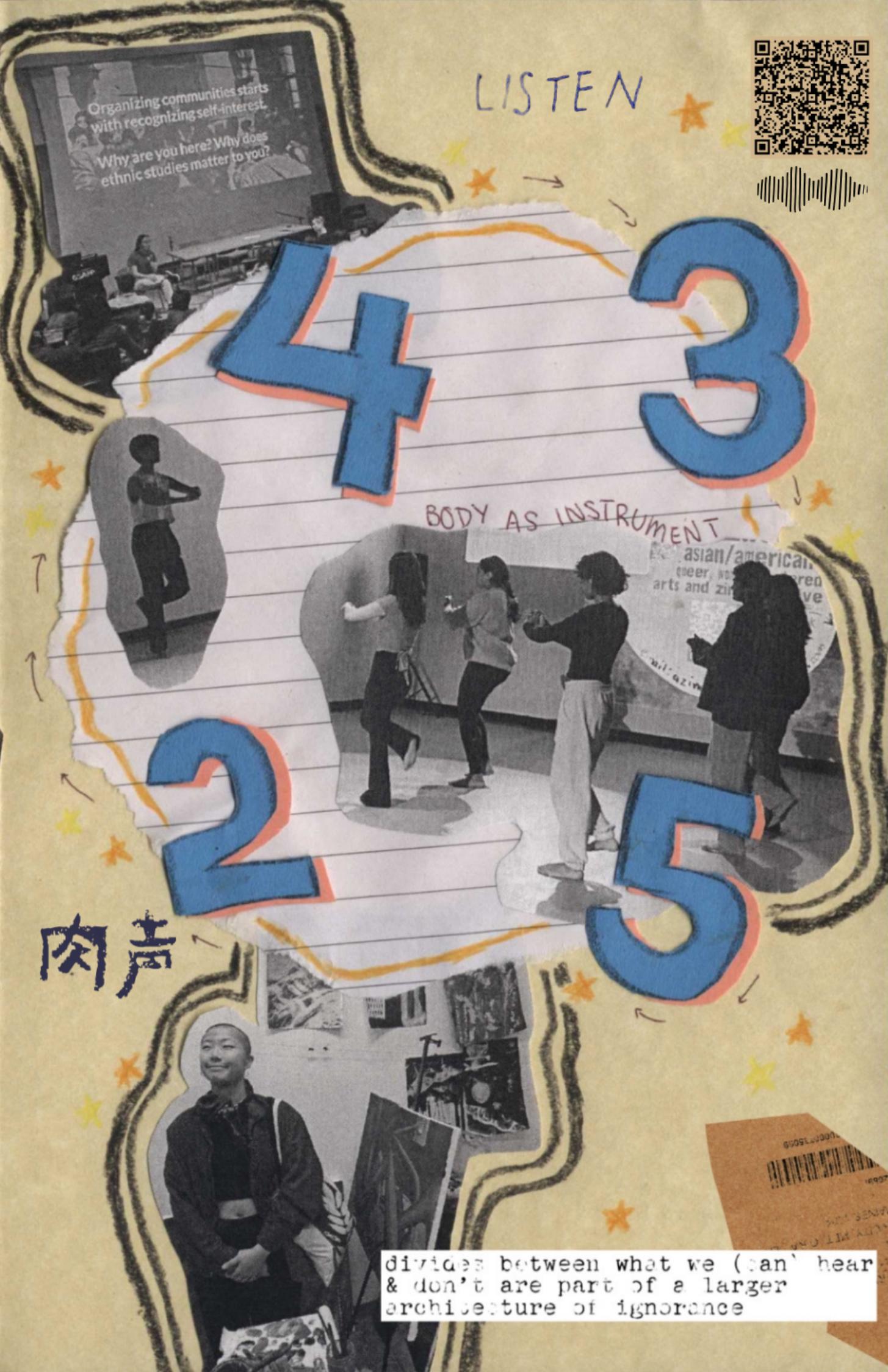
critical
creative
poetic
DISSENT

ly from theaters. *At the Movies* grossed \$3 million for Universal. I would trust Miss Weber with



MAKING
NOISE





WE DON'T NEED THE CORE,



KHON2

<https://www.khon2.com> › local-news › 42-of-ame

58% of Americans can't name a fa

~~— 2022 — There's an estimated 24 million~~

~~May 18, 2021 — When asked to name a famous American, 58% of respondents — according to the poll — were unable to name one. The most popular answer, according to the poll, was "don't know," followed by actor Jack Palance.~~

**WHO
ARE YOUR
ROLE
MODELS?**



WE NEED ETHNIC STUDIES

erica... :

famous Asian American

people who identified as Asian alone or in
the U.S. Census Bureau.

Asian American, the top response — with 42% of
Cookie Chan, ...



attach
photo
here

lily

i remember living in the same hall as duan during our freshman year (RIP: aug. 2019 - mar. 2020) and wanting to be friends with them because they were so open, so kind, and just so COOL!!! they have such a big heart and we are all so lucky to know them.

i must be frank – mentally, i was not all there during this final semester of college and so i had trouble tapping fully into my creative side.

however, my lovely friends and i in CU SAFA (south asian feminism(s) alliance) made a zine! it was a group effort and it was truly so exciting to see our finished product. i never thought of myself as an artist or a writer, but that was dumb. you can do anything if you put your mind to it! and that's why i felt motivated to submit to azine as well. don't knock it 'til you try it!

i also had the privilege of taking global long-form photography with professor diana matar this past semester, and let me just say: that course changed my life. for my final photo project in the class, i examined mother nature, abundance, femininity, and the Holy Qur'an. it was a delightful time. i'm so proud of the end result.

to professor matar, nyah, allison, menasha, menal, kayla, and my classmates: i can't thank you all enough for all your help with this project. it means the world.



nov. 2021 (so little we were)

duan: you are a star
and i have so much
love for you. thank
you for being the
baddest and the
realest <3 you inspire
all of us to be
better.

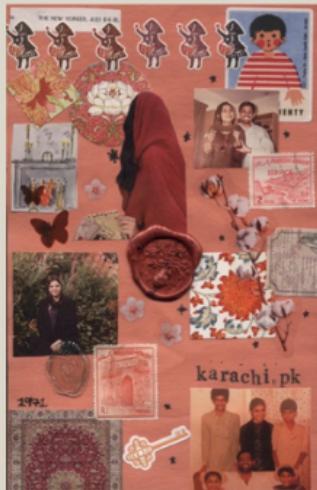


**senior safa board pic!!! naira
me (fatima), & mahdia (ILY
GUYS).**

to everyone who was part of the safa zine: thank you for everything. this wouldn't have happened without you.



go see the whole exhibit (if you please) in milbank, on the 3rd floor! the photos are gonna be up for a while!



collage i made for the safa zine!

i used to be ashamed of my side profile (due to eurocentric standards, blahblah, etc.) until i was like 18. i've been told i have my nani amma's nose and i am so proud to look even a little bit like her.



abbu, dadi amma, and i in baltimore, maryland (2000).



my ammi and shahida khala in the 90s. is this karachi? london? germany? they probably told me, but i can't remmeber.



I WANT TO BE HAPPY!



my sister and i (circa 2007?) at Mazar-e-Quaid, the final resting place of Muhammad Ali Jinnah (the founder of Pakistan).



nani amma and i, 2004.



patience, rebecca, mahdia, dani, nana, nishat, and i!



my baby brother (circa 2019??). he's perfect btw.

something that caught my attention during the azine workshops was the creativity of the people in this collective! it is so easy to feel isolated and alone at times, but the azine members are so passionate and lovely that i felt welcome immediately.

as a "diaspora girlie", i've been doing a lot of self-reflection. my parents came to the United States before i was born, seeking refuge from religious persecution in their home country of Pakistan. we are Ahmadi Muslims. it's a lot to unpack. i still struggle to come to terms with it – the fact that my parents did everything for me and my younger siblings. if you're a child of immigrants, you already know what i'm talking about.

i am so lucky. so lucky. my life is so beautiful. the world is my oyster, because of all that my ammi and abbu sacrificed for me. i will never be able to thank them enough. never. what i can do is become someone that they can be proud of. i'd do anything for my parents. i love them more than i can express in words. i struggled to understand them fully when i was a child, but i have been trying my best. maybe i will never understand them fully, and i think that's what they wanted: for me to never have to fully understand the hardships they went through.

my identity is one that i am continuing to explore. i'm going home (pakistan) this summer. i'm going to travel through the northern areas and see the lands that my ancestors cultivated and farmed. of course, my predecessors probably resided in other regions that are now different "countries"... THANKS A LOT, BRITISH RAJ!!!!!!

IN SEPTEMBER 2020, I SCATTERED MY PISHI'S ASHES IN THIS OCEAN. ~1 YEAR LATER SHILPA CAME WITH ME TO GIVE HER A LETTER. ~2 YEARS LATER I TOOK THIS PHOTO.

THIS PERSON IS SO DIFFERENT FROM THAT PERSON.

RAINY YEAR
SUPERBLOOMS!



What inspires you?

Little life and myself



DRIVING DOWN HIGHWAY-1 UNTIL I ESCAPED THE FOG ROLLING DOWN THE COAST. FILLING MY LUNGS WITH OCEAN.



(NOT SURE WHAT I MEANT... I'D JUST READ 'STAY TRUE')

MY CHOSEN FAMILY STARTS SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE

THINGS I LEARNED FROM STAT



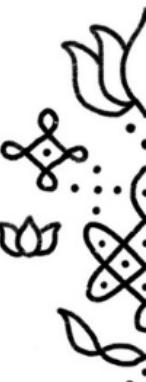
OUR BODIES HOLD SO MANY 'STORIES. SOMETIMES OUR FEET TELL THEM BETTER THAN WORDS. THE CYCLIC NATURE OF ~~TIME~~ (taal) HOLDS INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

WE CAN WEAVE IT ALL TOGETHER.



I' ABOUT THAT CAN MY PARENTS PART CYANOTYPING THIS MOMENT!

I WONDER KNOW THAT THE FAMILY IS WORTH A IF WE'LL BE FOR ME TO A THAT TO THE



অসমি/স্রোষি SREOSHI

I'M THINKING
OF THE STORIES
WE BEFORE US. DO
WE THINK THEY'RE
OF A STORY?

IF THEY
I THINK
THEY MADE (WHO IS SENDING
STORY, OR
CLOSE ENOUGH

DMIT
M.

ATS:
T TO GO!



THESE ARE THE
WOMEN WHO RAISED ME.



THE DAFFODILS & TULIPS
IN NYC SPRING!
I LOVE MORE IN THE SUN.



THE BERRIES
ARE GONE.

G-SUITES HAS STAGNATED:
YOU HAVE TO ADD FOLKS
TO LISTSERVs
MANUALLY



*THE ROYAL
YOU, AS IN FRANKIE

আমাৰ আমিৰা & আ।
(MY AUNTIES & MOTHER).
I'M FIGURING THIS
ONE OUT. IT WILL TAKE
TIME.

তুমি কি কখনও
নিজেৰ প্ৰেমে
পড়েছিলেন ?

I MADE A SEED-STORY
ZINE ABOUT FOOD AS
A LOVE LANGUAGE
FT. THIS CHICKEN
RENDANG. I MADE
IDLIS WITH FERN
AND KETAKI.



GOOD FOOD, GOOD PEOPLE,
GOOD MUSIC (ART IS TO
BE ENJOYED) - MAKES
A COMMUNITY.

THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS
LIKE TO MAKE SOMETHING
OF OUR OWN!

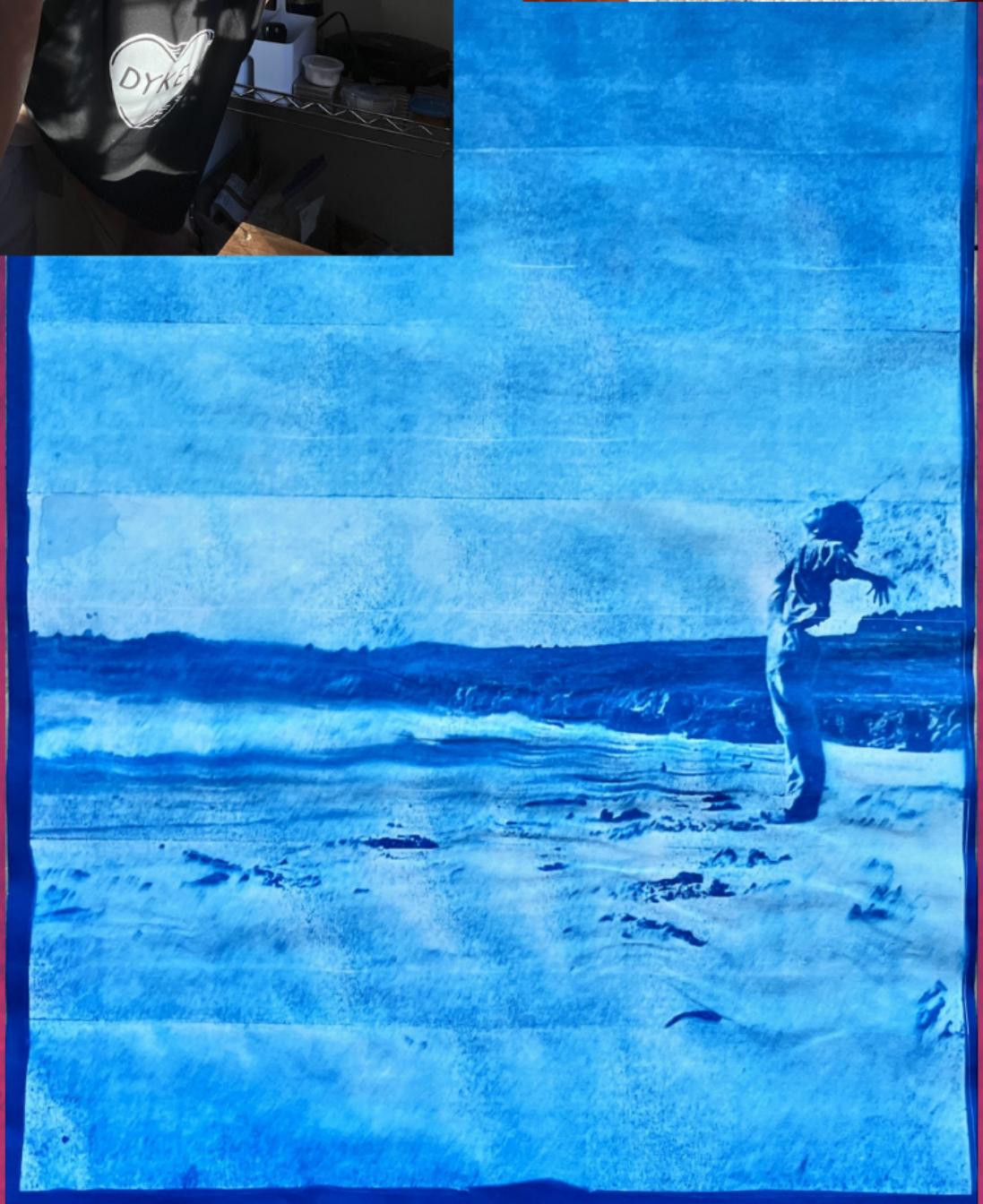
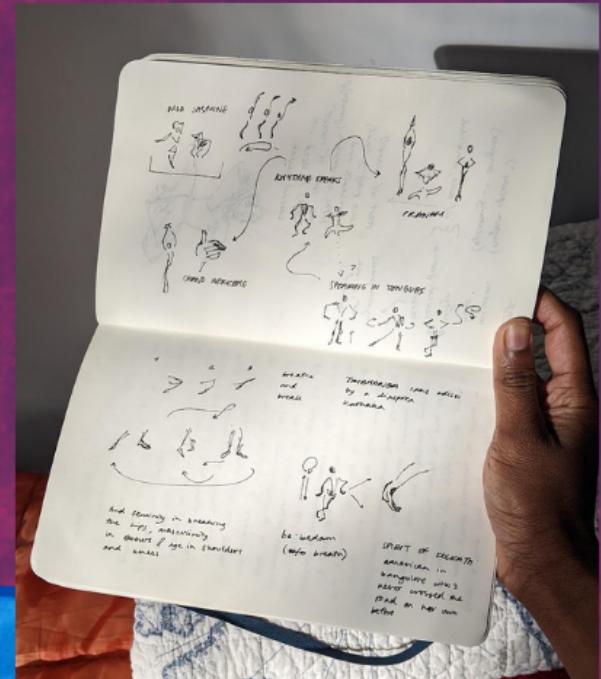
EATING AN ORANGE IN
RIVERSIDE: IT'S NOT NEARLY
TIME TO GROW UP!



দ্রেয়ালি / বিয়া



বিয়া





రమ్య
Ramya
रम्या





INDIGO ZHU

"under one odorous roof"

- CRYING IN HMART

When I was young,
my favorite part of the day
was returning home from
school to a heaping bowl of
rice and 西红柿鸡蛋汤 my
grandma had prepared. The
familiar aromas would
fill the kitchen + they made
me feel safe. Home-
cooked Chinese food
was always a treat.

Nov 2007

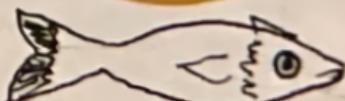


Aug 2008





Second grade was the first time I remember feeling embarrassed about my lunch. I'd peek open the lid of my thermos a shave a tiny piece of dumpling or fish into my mouth, and screw the lid back on forever. I hoped no one had seen—or worse, smelled—the meals my grandma so lovingly packed. When I'd get home she'd ask me why I'd refused to eat the foods I devoured at home. She was confused, as was I.



It has taken me a long time to appreciate these "lunchbox moments," and for my mind to believe the foods my taste buds have loved all along. Living away from my family, I have grown to long for the taste of 干烧 and 酒酿 in a way I didn't expect. I've recreated some dishes, like these 蛋挞.



frankie fierro

chinese american adoptee, amongst other things.

薛

利 欣

nobody will
we're so close
i feel at time
half here and
people, time



the other things: big fan of emails as a love language, rachel weisz and robust grilled cheese sandwiches



i took a 23 and now
hundreds of four
insane actually. turn
out i'm 100% ch
of my dna was f

i love azine because
that there are a lot of
contradictions. i'm
thoughtful and like
has it figured out

ever tell me if adoptees count as "children of the diaspora".

se.

es like a child of immigrants:

and half there, mourning a language, caught between continents,

ce zones.

but i'm the immigrant, except not really? most immigrants know their trajectory. moving from one named place to another named place. they know where they came from.

a lot of being an adoptee is just not knowing. i don't know where i was born, or what time (much to the chagrin of barnard astrology enthusiasts.) i don't know if i have siblings. i don't know if my birth mom is also left-handed.

IS SOMETHING
TOOK AWAY? FELT
TIRED BY?

me and found out i have literally
rth and fifth cousins. it's kind of
i did learn some things. it turns
inese, and the strongest evidence
ound in jiangsu province.

use it's a space to not know. i like
lot of questions--and a lot of
like how we're a bit messy and
kind to each other. and nobody
t. i think that's the best part.



Eris's Show and Tell Page

of times not-long-ago and times long-past



Septemeber 2022

Nini (dog) in Shanghai, China

My mom took this photo. I haven't been home in two years and I miss my family and dog very much. A common question I get asked is where do you want to stay after you graduate. I've always been reluctant to answer this question. My family is in China yet I am not. The question of where do you belong and where will you see yourself is always a question I can't answer.



EXIT sign



clock



Fall 2022

Seagull somewhere on a pier by Wall Street

See I always used to like seagulls because they're kinda nasty little birds. I've always lived somewhere near the ocean. I was born in Qingdao, grew up in New Bedford, went to middle and high school in Shanghai, and now I'm in New York. There are always seagulls somewhere, eating trash and breaking shells. I like to think of them as a symbol of resilience.

Summer 2022
Cyanotype of a Hampshire College Sheep

Hampshire College has meant a lot to me. To go to a place where there are no majors or grades and no one telling you what classes to take - it's a lot of freedom but also a lot of pressure to figure out what you want. I don't know if leaving was the right choice, but I guess life goes on.



stray potato found on new york city streets



banana

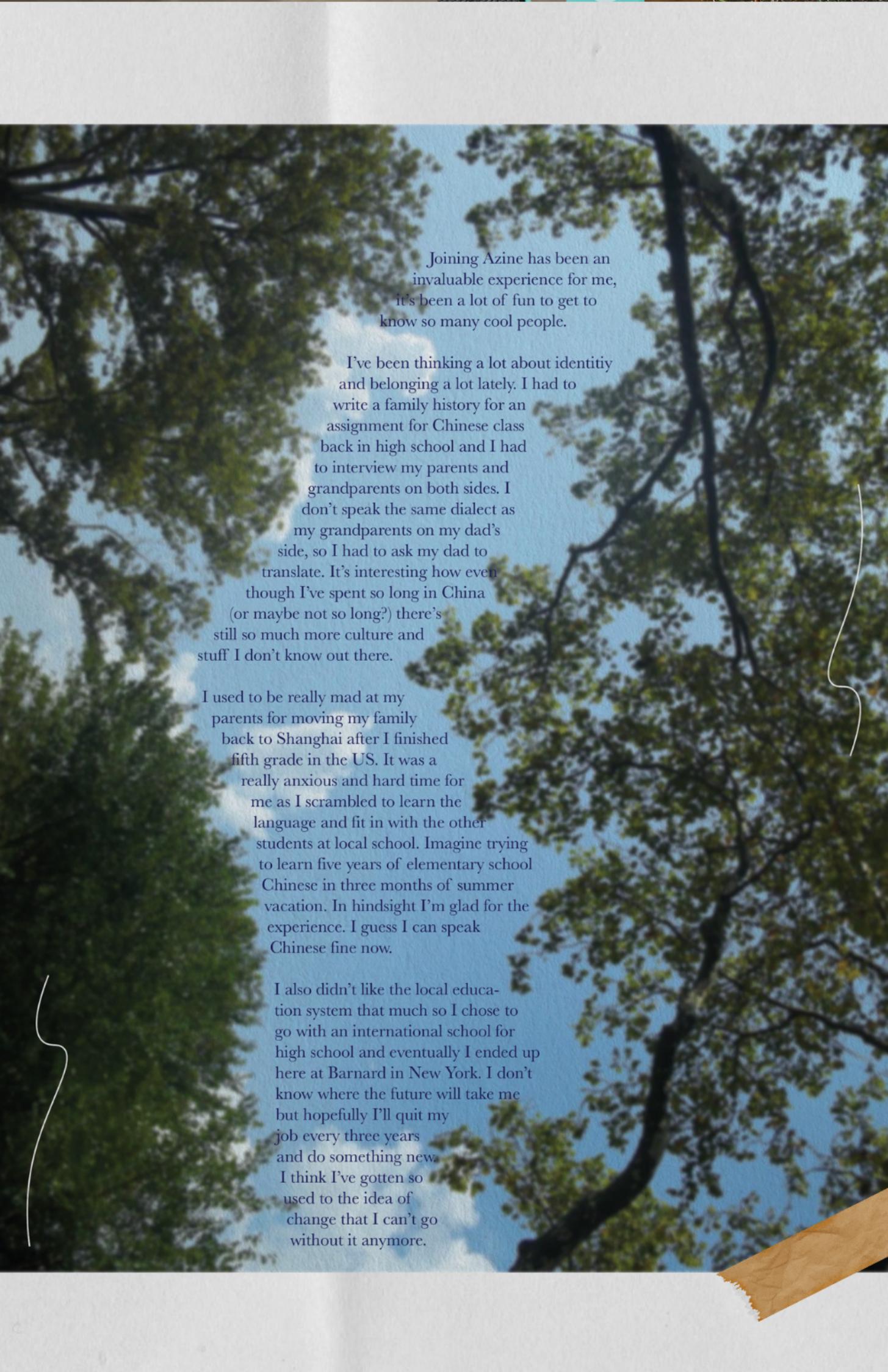
concrete
cabbage for
architecture
class



Lion tail (not me)

February 2023
Lion (me) vs Dog at Valentine's Day Show

I've seen lion dance shows when I was little and I've always wanted to try it out so I'm glad I finally got the chance. Lion dance has so many cool people.



Joining Azine has been an invaluable experience for me, it's been a lot of fun to get to know so many cool people.

I've been thinking a lot about identity and belonging a lot lately. I had to write a family history for an assignment for Chinese class back in high school and I had to interview my parents and grandparents on both sides. I don't speak the same dialect as my grandparents on my dad's side, so I had to ask my dad to translate. It's interesting how even though I've spent so long in China (or maybe not so long²) there's still so much more culture and stuff I don't know out there.

I used to be really mad at my parents for moving my family back to Shanghai after I finished fifth grade in the US. It was a really anxious and hard time for me as I scrambled to learn the language and fit in with the other students at local school. Imagine trying to learn five years of elementary school Chinese in three months of summer vacation. In hindsight I'm glad for the experience. I guess I can speak Chinese fine now.

I also didn't like the local education system that much so I chose to go with an international school for high school and eventually I ended up here at Barnard in New York. I don't know where the future will take me but hopefully I'll quit my job every three years and do something new. I think I've gotten so used to the idea of change that I can't go without it anymore.



I am
cramped
against
the
margins



آنکھیں مل صیری جان اب کھول دے انہیں
ان ساسوں کے سارے داز بس بول دے انہیں

Ash'aa

خان

31211





stretching
to make
room



Khan
خان
खान



राष्ट्रों के लीटा
से जो गुज़र
तो साँझ
में ही





கெடகி
Ketaki



world might well look to Iran to see how its culture will react to the conquest of Western industrialization. Will cheap machine-made goods and conditioned minds bring Iran's unique cultural achievements to a close? Or will Iran rise again in a new achievement equal to those of her past?



Lady mother, I have your hands, the thin ridge of tolo Tabor at the
east heel the mole of Ford beneath the vanguard. Even the barley
your laugh grows along their throat.
But you say something in my field cannot. Then I have lost
the taste for your god, your gardens, your grace.
This daughter will leave the table cold. She will
empty chairs, cattle rags, and fail to catch those Christ
hands.

It is too late to apologize.... Yet, she will forgive me when
I return. My feet damp across meadow grass. It will open
her face will startle like a flock of birds before wheeling back to the nest.



The
quests of
human
again —

I didn't quite make a cyanotype, but the photo I chose was one of friendship. I entered this year very bitter about people and wanted to be proven wrong



attempting to carry the lessons and wisdom of those before us onwards...continuing the fight for ethnic studies and our right to be here

azine happened as I found myself shifting, growing, learning...trying to hold my values close, while in search for genuine community and finding my voice again

TEACH-IN

6 TO 8 PM THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH @
EVERY CAFE (BASEMENT, LEFT STAIRS)

THE FIGHT FOR ETHNIC STUDIES AT COLUMBIA

By SANTORIA P. ANGELLO

The Committee for Ethnic Studies and the Committee for African Studies are holding last night to publicize its plan to fight for its right to be here. The two groups are working together for ethnic studies.

The two discussions were prompted by a possible plan of the College Board to merge the two ethnic studies programs into one. The two committees have met with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Dean of the Graduate School to discuss the two ethnic studies programs.

While the administration has not yet decided on the fate of the ethnic studies programs, the two committees are continuing to work on the issue.

Advocates of an ethnic studies program started Columbia College Dean Tom O'Gallagher's office on Feb. 6.

Continued on p. 11

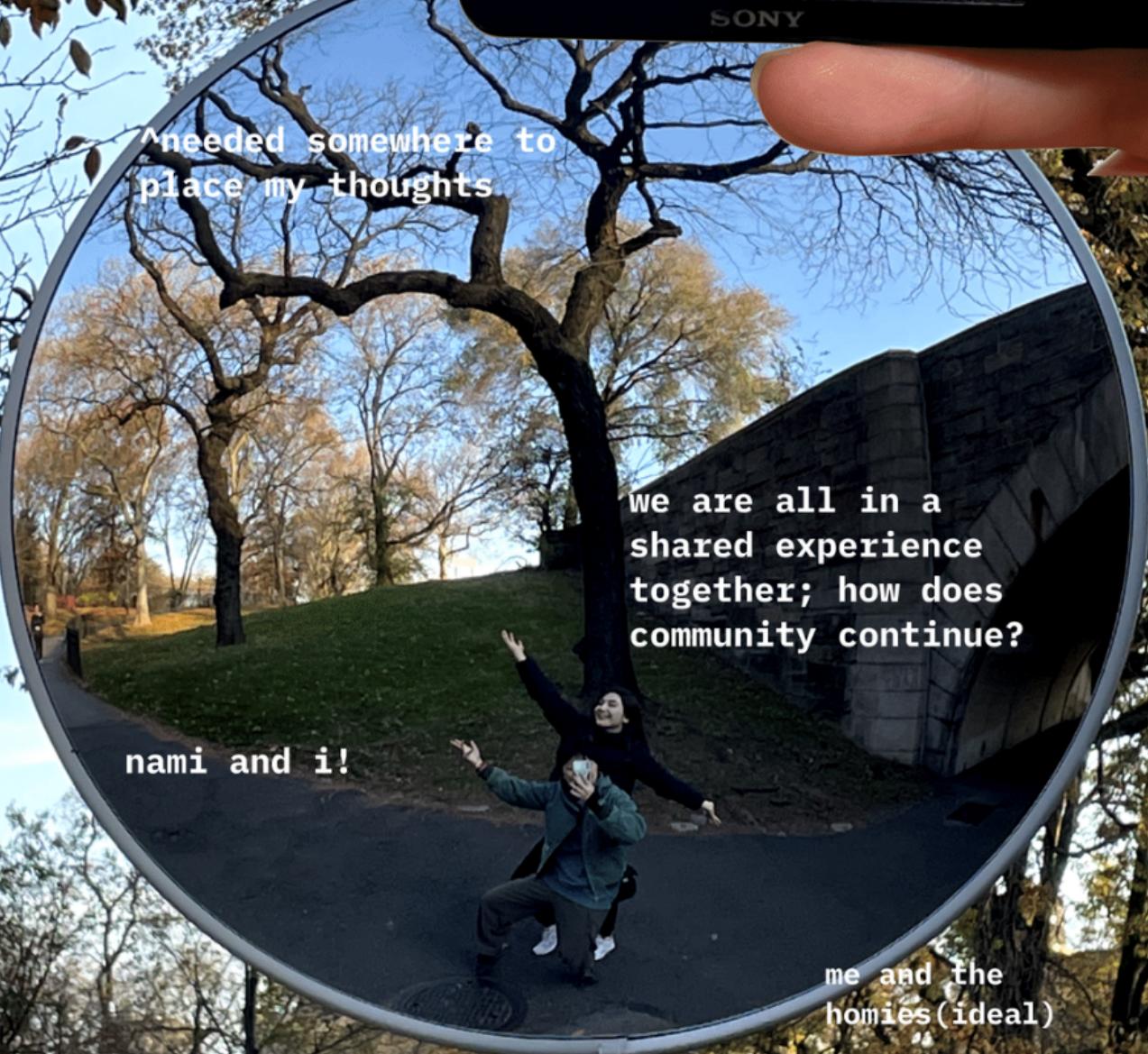
WITH STUDENT ORGANIZERS FROM THE ORIGINAL HUNGER STRIKE

DINNER ON US @ 6:40 PM

HOSTED BY AZINE & THE CSEB STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

A small black and white photo showing several people sitting around a table, possibly during a meeting or protest.

I learned much more about the importance of organizing/advocacy when a wrong has been recognized and understanding that the powerful do not want to be held accountable



if I was so dissatisfied with the leadership in other communities, why not make it myself? I want this space to be better.



who am i, who i am

i am a hater and a lover. i grew up playing nintendo and club penguin. i loved watching dragon ball and pokemon. i am and will always be an artist. i listen to songs on loop and watch instagram reels of rats. my current wonders: does prezbo have a weather machine to stop it from almost never raining during graduation season, why do most friends lose their values in friendships when dating for the first time, and what will happen when im no longer a student. i want more queer asian friends! but only ones who are less self absorbed and actually care about the community. i hate people who pretend to understand and listen, but it's obvious that they're only thinking about themsleves. i wish i could write better. i want to drink more tea and play around with my friends. i wish i had less regrets, or that i came to terms with them. i want to keep lion dancing and get better, but i dont know why i do. i want to keep doing art and do pieces that mean things to me!



THE EIGHT FORTY EIGHT STUDENTS AT COLEMAN

TEACH-IN

6 TO 8 PM THIS SATURDAY
AVERY CAFE, BASEMENT, LIA

Future studies advocates

STUDENTS NATIONWIDE

I am always connected to technology



phone in my bed, b/c I use it for an alarm clock



listening to music while walking to class, or on the subway

using my laptop at my desk in my dorm room



in class, I use my iPad to take notes



(One screen time report for my laptop said my avg. daily use for the week was 11+ hrs.)

using my phone when I am bored, to distract myself



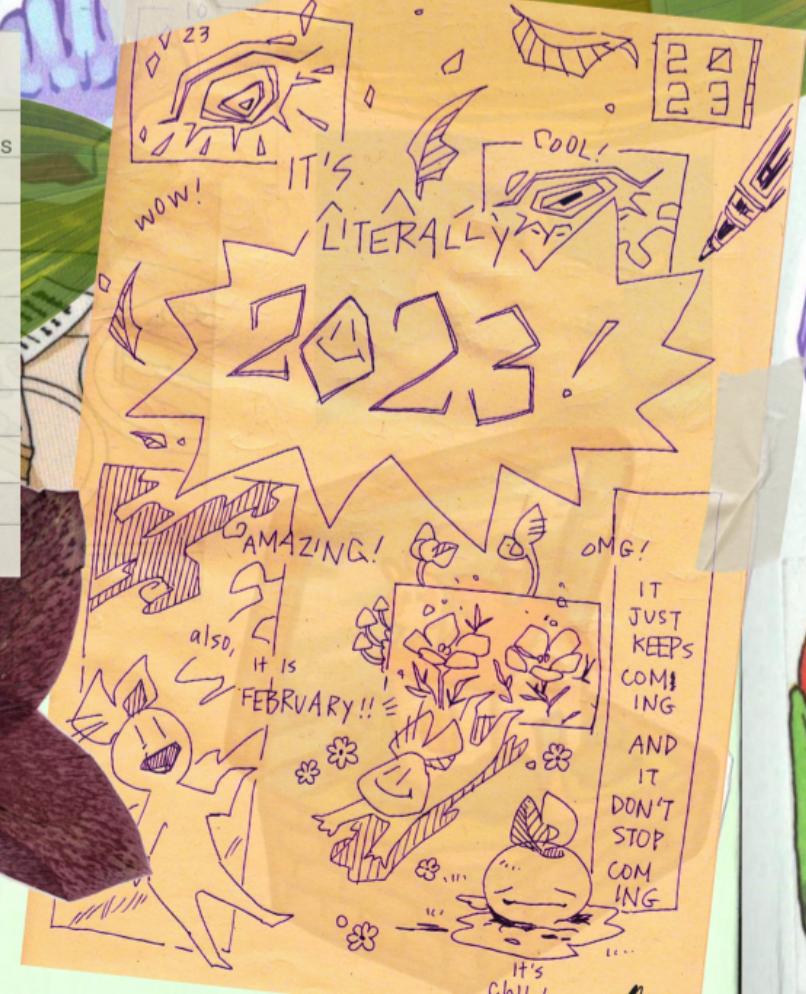
(that reminds me, new



web comics

list of materials:

- every seven days, a week passes. sometimes
- i look up and realize the moon is full
- again. a month
- has slipped by. i
- take plants and press them between the pages of books.
- they are going to end up in my journal
- eventually. i would do that to the moon
- too if i could.



for better



MAY 2023

visual library.

faceted fractal identity.
familiar patterns.
a profound sense of ?
good choices i made this year.
endless consumption of media.

FC.
BETTER
OR
WORSE,
REGARDLESS,
IT IS.

well today

for worse, regardless

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indomitable spirit**



ENTS & THANK YOU'S

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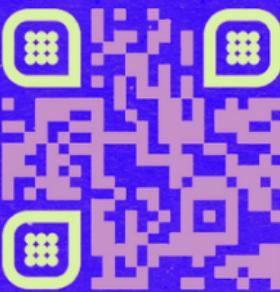
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**KEEP IN
TOUCH!**

AZiNE
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**SP
2023**

